Serial No.: 10/065,283
Attorney Docket No.: F-523   Patent

Amendment To The Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method for identifying [[a]] an acceptable version of a form comprising:

initializing a pointing instrument having a form version database, wherein the form version database includes form identification data including a form type identifier and a version number;

determining if the form version database must be updated;

providing an indication to a user if the form version database must be updated;

obtaining form version data from the form;

determining whether the form is an acceptable version using the form version database and the form version data by using the form type identifier; and

providing an indication to the user if the form is not an acceptable version;

processing pointing instrument input data obtained by using the pointing instrument with the form only if the form is an acceptable version.

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the pointing instrument is a digital pen and the form is printed on paper.

3. (previously amended) The method of claim 2 wherein the form version data is obtained by reading an RF-ID tag.

4. (original) The method of claim 2 wherein the form version data is obtained by scanning a bar code.

5. (original) The method of claim 2 wherein the form version data is obtained by obtaining user stroke data.

6. (original) The method of claim 5 wherein the user stroke data is obtained when the user traces over a form indicator.

7. (previously amended) The method of claim 6 wherein the form indicator is a serial number pre-printed on the form in a dashed font.

8. (currently amended) A digital pen comprising:

a processor;

a storage device connected to the processor; and

the storage device storing a form version database, wherein the form version database includes form identification data including a form type identifier and a version number and wherein the processor is configured to obtain a form type number and to use the form version database to determine if the form type number is acceptable.

9. (previously presented) The digital pen of claim 8 wherein:

the processor is configured to update the form version database.

10. (canceled)

11. (currently amended) The digital pen of claim 10 wherein:

the processor is configured provide an indication to a user if the form version number is not acceptable;

the processor is configured to obtain user authentication data from a user to determine if the user is authorized to use the form, and

the processor is configured to disable the digital pen is the user is not authorized to use the form.

12. (previously presented) The digital pen of claim 11 further comprising:

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an LED for providing an indication to the user.

13. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising: updating the form version database periodically.

14. (previously presented) The method of claim 2 further comprising: disabling the digital pen if the form version database must be updated.

15. (currently amended) The method of claim 2 further comprising: signaling a source of forms to indicate the presence of outdated forms if the form is not an acceptable version.

16. (previously presented) The method of claim 2 wherein the form version data is obtained by obtaining lookup pattern data.

17. (currently amended) A method for authorizing the use of a version of a form comprising:

initializing a pointing instrument having a form version database, wherein the form version database includes form identification data including a form type identifier and a version number;

authenticating a user of the pointing instrument;

obtaining form version data from the form; and

determining whether the form is an acceptable version using the form version database and the form version data by using the form type identifier;

providing an indication to a user if the form version database must be updated;

determining whether the user is an authorized user of the form version using the form version database;

providing an indication to the user if the form is not an acceptable version;

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<u>processing pointing instrument input data obtained using the form only if the form is an acceptable version and the user is authenticated</u>.

18. (previously presented) The method of claim 17 wherein:
the pointing instrument is a digital pen.

19. (previously presented) The method of claim 18 further comprising:
disabling the digital pen if the user is not an authorized user of the form version.

20. (previously presented) The method of claim 17 wherein initializing the pointing instrument includes determining if the form version database must be updated.

21. (new) The method of claim 1 wherein the form version database includes a range of acceptable form type identifiers and determining whether the form is an acceptable version includes determining id the form version data indicates a form type in the acceptable range.

10/17/05 Amendment